

SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 12, 2014

6:00 P.M.

HAMPDEN TOWN OFFICE

A G E N D A

1. MINUTES 4-14-2014
2. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Papermill Park Update
 - B. Recreation
 1. Kids Korner – Town Employees
3. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Parks - Responsibilities
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2014

Attending:

Mayor Carol Duprey

Councilor Jean Lawlis

Councilor Tom Brann

Councilor William Shakespeare

Councilor Greg Sirois

Councilor David Ryder

Town Manager Susan Lessard

Residents

Farmer's Market Representatives

The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. by Chairman Lawlis.

1. MINUTES 3-10-2014 – The minutes of the 3-10-2014 meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.
2. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Papermill Park Update – No update on the park was given due to the absence of Jeremy Jones, the volunteer coordinator for the park. This item will be updated at the May 2014 meeting.
 - B. Farmer's Market Update – The Committee took a break in the meeting in order to walk around the front parking lot of the Municipal Building to see if that space would be appropriate for use by the Market. Following that a motion was made by Councilor Brann, seconded by Councilor Sirois to recommend to the full Council that they allow the Farmer's Market to use the Municipal Building parking lot for a Farmer's Market on Fridays. Unanimous vote in favor.
 - C. Skehan Center/Recreation Enterprise Income/Expenditure Review – The Town Manager presented a report on the current financial condition of the Skehan Center/Recreation Enterprise budgets (copy attached). Her report concluded that the Skehan Center loss was offset by the credit balance in the Recreation Enterprise account and that if the Council was willing to look at the Skehan Center/Recreation Enterprise budget as one entity it could be done without property tax impact. Councilor Brann did not agree with that proposal, Councilor Sirois suggested that it might be a good idea to hire an overall Recreation business manager to oversee the pool, recreation enterprise, Skehan Center and library operation. He considered that a business manager may find overall efficiencies and make sure that the fee structure used by the Town in all recreation programs is maximized. Councilor Lawlis was concerned about hiring for a new position in this difficult economic environment. Resident Terry McAvoy voiced strong opposition to both a new position and the use of property tax dollars to fund any part of the Skehan Center. Councilor Brann advocated for the development of an overall plan for all recreation included the departments cited as well as trails, trail development, and parks. It was suggested that the Council should put a 'straw poll' question on the ballot in November asking residents whether they would support the use of tax dollars on Skehan Center operations.
3. NEW BUSINESS

The Committee interviewed Stephanie Shayne and Nancy Foster in regard to their applications for membership on the Recreation Committee. Both women are university professors and both have children who participate in the Town recreation programs. Both expressed interest in continuing and expanding recreational offerings and a desire to help the Town. Motion by Councilor Sirois seconded by Councilor Shakespeare to recommend to the full Council appointment to the Recreation Committee of Nancy Foster and Stephanie Shane. Unanimous vote in favor. Applicants Collier and Fontaine did not attend the meeting and there were differing opinions among Committee members as to whether to continue to carry these applications forward or notify them that the positions were filled. No vote was taken.

- A. New Appointment – Nancy Foster – Recreation Committee
 - B. New Appointment – Matt Collier – Recreation Committee
 - C. New Appointment – Stephanie Shayne – Recreation Committee
 - D. New Appointment – Jaric Fontaine – Recreation Committee
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None
 - 5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS – None

Motion by Councilor Shakespeare, seconded by Councilor Ryder to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lessard
Town Manager